GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1560
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2002
INDIAN FISHERMEN IN PAK CAPTIVITY .
PUSHPDAN SHAMBHUDAN GADHAVI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

:

(a)whether Pakistan Marine captured eight Indian fishing boats and 45 fishermen near Jakhua, Kutch district recently;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the number of fishing boats and fishermen captured during the last two years and kept in the Pak jails; and

(d) the efforts made by the Government to release the boats and the fishermen?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a)&(b) As per information received from the Government of Gujarat, 100 Indian fishermenand 17 boats have been apprehended by Pakistan Maritime Security Agency in January and February this year. Subsequently, there have been reportsthat another 94 fishermen and 16 boats have been taken in custody by Pakistani authorities on March 4th and 5th, 2002.

(c) Pakistan apprehended a total of 320 Indian fishermen and 53 boats during the last two years i.e 2000 and 2001. All these fishermen with their boats were got released and repatriated to India in November/December, 2001.

(d) Government have taken up the issue of release and repatriation of recently apprehended Indian fishermen/boats with the Government of Pakistan through diplomatic channels.